

**MARICOPA COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING**
Meeting of November 13, 2007

LOCATION:	234 N. Central Avenue, Suite 6400, Parks Conference Room, Phoenix, AZ 85004
COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:	Laurel Arndt, Jill Kusy, Jack Stapley, Randy Virden
COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT:	Salomon Leija, Anne Lynch and District 4 (vacant)
STAFF PRESENT:	Fareed Abou-Haidar, GIS Technician; Tina Allen, Administrator; R.J. Cardin, Director; Rand Hubbell, Park Supervisor; Debbie Lemon, Administrative Assistant and Recorder; Kristen Mohamed, Park Planner; Ken Mouw, Chief Engineer; Amelia Sowers, HR Liaison; Dawna Taylor, Public Information Officer and Kevin Costello, County Counsel.

The official correspondence and staff recommendations contained in this Commission folder are hereby entered as supportive material to the official minutes of the November 13, 2007 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

ITEM # 1 – CALL TO ORDER – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission

- Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

ITEM # 2 – ROLL CALL – Roll Call taken - a quorum was present.

ITEM # 3 – APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 9, 2007 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETINGS – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission - ACTION ITEM

- Commissioner Virden motioned to approve the minutes as written, with a second by Commissioner Stapley.

ITEM #4 - DIRECTOR'S SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION ITEM

- The Director reviewed the summary and highlighted select items from the report. In addition, he added that the ASU Visitor Survey for 07-08 has begun. He also added that the capital project plan has been updated.
- Chair Kusy complimented the department on the solar oasis project.

ITEM #5 – UPDATE ON THE RE-VEGETATION PROJECT AT MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK – Teresa Retterbush, Superintendent, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation – PRESENTATION/INFORMATION ITEM

- Rand Hubbell was introduced to the Commissioners and began a PowerPoint presentation (attached).
- Spring of 2005 was a public hearing for McDowell and SRP to expand the easement. The Parks department agreed to give the easement in exchange for the development of underground utilities to the Visitor Center to provide power redundancy and reliability. In addition, SRP agreed to re-vegetate the impacted area. April 12, 2005 these stipulations were presented to the Commission, and were accepted. In December 2005, SRP completed the initial project, with new lines installed.
- Due to the extremely dry conditions in the winter and spring of 2005 and 2006, none of the current re-vegetation that SRP had done was effective. In the summer of 2006, additional work was done on the lines, due to noise complaints, and consequently more damage to the area has been done.
- Janeen Rohovit from SRP stated that special noise reduction equipment is on order and is to be delivered in February 2008. Rather than a temporary repair, SRP would like to wait until the new equipment comes in to complete the work regarding the noise levels.
- Fay Schlotfeldt with the Rio Verde Community Association spoke on behalf of the Association (3 others from the Rio Verde Comm. Assoc. were also in attendance-Dick Lawler, Doris Findling and Richard Oliver). There has not been a road along the park for 30 years, and the Association is opposed to a road. The Association has witnessed an increase in traffic on the road, and is concerned that it increases the risk of trespassing, drainage problems and decreases property values. The Association stated SRP has not completed the work promised and that Parks should hold them accountable.
- Chair Kusy noted for the Department to go back and review the record of the 2005 meeting, County Counsel will do the same.

ITEM #6 – HYDROELECTRIC PLANT AT WHITE TANK MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK (AZPICO) – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

- Director Cardin referenced the Board of Supervisor's resolution from 1997 not to proceed with the project. In November 2006, William Scalzo sent a letter still supporting the 1997 decision.
- The Commission is in consensus with Director Cardin for the project not to go forward. Director Cardin will send a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).
- William R. Murphee with the Arizona State Building Trades had submitted a request to speak but after hearing the recommendation, Mr. Murphee chose not to speak.

ITEM #7 – PRESENTATION OF PARKS NEW MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT – Teresa Retterbush, Superintendent, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEM

- All levels of staff provided feedback at the All Hands meeting additional input was received at the Supervisors' Retreat, and a staff task force met to draft new Mission and Vision Statements. Commissioners received copies of each.

- Chair Kusy asked for clarification if the statements were for the Department or for the master plan. Director Cardin indicated the new statements were for the Department and would also be incorporated with the new master plan that is being worked on currently. Chair Kusy requested for bolder wording to be used and that the Department needs to be proactive in securing new park lands for the desired future of the County.
- Commissioners Arndt and Virden concurred. Additional language was suggested to the staff and it was requested that the team revisited the vision statement.

ITEM #8 – UPDATE ON THE PLANNING FOR THE NORTH REACH OF LAKE PLEASANT – R.J. Cardin, Director, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department– *PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEM*

- Final public meeting would be on Thursday, November 15th at the Desert Outdoor Center.
- Reviewed map, including an access point off of Table Mesa. Public consensus at the meetings has been that off road vehicles not be allowed in the conversation area. It is a difficult process to balance the competing interests in the area.
- One option is to fence both sides of a primitive road leading to a small primitive boating ramp. This would guide vehicles pulling small weight boats down to the river, only when the water level will reach the ramp. This would coincide with the eagle closure season.
- Cost for fencing the area would be approximately \$500,000 and Reclamation is looking to help with the cost. Game and Fish may and should provide additional sources of funding.

ITEM #9 – MASTER PLAN UPDATE – Kristen Mohamed, Park Planner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department – *INFORMATION ITEM*

- The original timeline for the project was 11 months with a deadline of November 1, 2007. We have granted the consultant a new timeline of April 20, 2008.
- Commissioners Kusy, Arndt and Virden, who are all on the Master Plan steering committee, are meeting with Pros Consulting on Tuesday, November 20th.

ITEM #10 – SET JANUARY 2008 COMMISSION MEETING DATE – Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission– *ACTION ITEM*

- First meeting of 2008 is scheduled for Tuesday, January 8th at 9:00 a.m.

ITEM #11 and ITEM #12–NOMINATION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORT AND NOMINATION OF OFFICERS AND ELECTION OF 2008 PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION OFFICERS – Randy Virden, Sub-Committee Chair/Commissioner, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission– *ACTION ITEM*

- Commissioner Virden stated that current Vice Chair Anne Lynch has been nominated to Chair and Jack Stapley to Vice Chair for 2008.
- Motion that Anne Lynch serve as Chair and Jack Stapley serve as Vice Chair by Commissioner Arndt, second by Commissioner Virden. 2008 Officers were elected for the Commission.

ITEM # 13– CALL TO THE COMMISSION

- None

Item # 14 – CALL TO THE PUBLIC

- None

Item # 15 – ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further business, Jill Kusy, Chair, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Commission, adjourned the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

R.J. Cardin, Director/Secretary

Jill Kusy, Chair

McDowell Revegetation Project Update

McDowell Mountain Regional Park & Salt River Project

McDowell Revegetation Project

Brief History SRP Powerline

- Spring 2005, SRP and MCPRD agreed on powerline upgrade. Project completed in December 2005
- SRP agreed to revegetating impacted area with input from community groups & P&R Commission.
- Initial efforts to revegetate the impacted area in the Spring of 2006 were unsuccessful (no rainfall & lack of scarifying)
- Representatives from Rio Verde & McDowell Park Association appealed to SRP to take additional steps to assist with the revegetating project.

McDowell Revegetation Project

- Summer 2007, SRP maintenance crews began work to reduce powerline noise.
- Additional damage was incurred; in addition, the modest efforts that had been made with the revegetation were also destroyed.
- SRP inspected the entire alignment with Parks staff.
- SRP has been very supportive of the need to revegetate the area so that impact is minimize.
- Every request has been approved; trees, low height bushes, and a specific hydro-seeding contractor.

McDowell Revegetation Project

SRP Commitment

- Additional maintenance work will be completed in February/March 2008 (waiting on parts).
- SRP and Park staff will re-assess the impacted areas and make any necessary changes to the revegetation plan
- SRP has currently committed to:
 - 25 Palo Verde or Mesquite trees (15 gallon or 24 inch box depending on availability)
 - 18 Brittlebushes and/or Bursage (any combination of the two varieties)
- After the trees and bushes are in place, 60,000 square feet will be scarified and then hydro-seeded.